

+ X.—On some interesting Additions to the Avifauna of Bucaramanga, U.S. of Colombia. By HANS VON BERLEPSCH.

(Plate IV.)

IN the 'Journal für Ornithologie' for 1884, pp. 273–320, I have spoken of a large collection of bird-skins from Bucaramanga sent* to the Lübeck Museum by Mr. Emilio Minlos, a German resident of that city. Lately I have had the pleasure of examining another collection from the same source, which was most obligingly placed in my hands for determination by my friend Dr. H. Lenz, of Lübeck. In general this second collection contained but little additional material worthy of notice; indeed, it furnished but three species which were not represented in the first consignment. However, two of these are of no small interest: one being quite new to science, the other not yet known as a denizen of New Granada. To begin first with the interesting novelty, of which there are two specimens in the collection. I feel much satisfaction in naming it "*Xenerpestes minlosi*," in honour of Mr. Emilio Minlos, by whose generosity this collection was brought together in the neighbourhood of the city of Bucaramanga, and afterwards presented to the Museum of the city of Lübeck. The new generic title was kindly suggested to me by Mr. Sclater, who, as well as Mr. Salvin, agrees with me in considering this bird to be new to science, and a very important discovery.

In appearance *Xenerpestes minlosi* is quite unlike any other species. At first sight its colouring reminds one somewhat of the curious *Odontorhynchus branickii*, being cinereous above, white below, and showing white striations on the nape &c. In form, however, it is altogether different; moreover it has an unbarred tail, white wing-bands &c., and the similarity appears very superficial when the two species are compared more closely together.

The correct position of the new bird is, no doubt, among the Dendrocolaptidæ; and I am inclined to adopt the view of my friend Mr. Sclater, who believes that it ought to be placed in the neighbourhood of *Synallaxis*. Nevertheless its com-

paratively much longer wings, which are more pointed (not rounded), its tail, the feathers of which are soft, with their tips rounded (not pointed, nor are the rectrices anywhere dilated, as in certain Dendrocolaptidæ with soft tails), the curved bill, the very short legs, with their strong much-curved claws, and the quite singular coloration make it very different from that genus, and its correct position among the Dendrocolaptidæ must remain a matter of controversy. The bird may be characterized as follows :—

XENERPESTES (ξένος = alienus, ἐρπηστής, nomen propr.), genus novum Dendrocolaptidarum.

Rostro brevi, gracili, conspicue deorsum curvato, basi latiore, dein subito angustato, maxillæ tomiis ad oris angulum projectis, tumidis, dente finali nullo. Narium aperturis oblongis, pone rostri basin, lateralibus, membrana partim obtectis nec plumosis. Tarsis brevibus fortibus, digitis brevissimis, unguibus fortioribus, valde incurvis instructis. Digito externo interno vix longiore.

Trunci pennis quam in genere *Synallaxidi* firmioribus, plumis in fronte rigidis setaceis, supra narium aperturas valde prominentibus.

Alis pro mole longioribus. Remigum primariorum decem 2°, 3°, 4° longissimis, fere æqualibus; 2° = 7° secundariis (numero novem?) multo longioribus.

Cauda modice gradata, rectricibus externis mediis circiter 15 mm. brevioribus: rectricibus omnibus laxis, latitudine æquali, apicibus rotundatis nec acuminatis.

Coloribus insolitis, sexibus similibus: ptilosi ætatis juvenilis diversa.

XENERPESTES MINLOSI, sp. nov. (Plate IV.)

Corpore supra olivascente griseo, pileo nigrescentiore, plumis in fronte striis tenuissimis scapalibus albis signatis. Nucha et collo laterali minus conspicue striatis. Superciliis latis a naribus ad nucham ductis flavescenti-albis. Corpore subtus sordide flavescenti-albo unicolore, subcaudalibus obscure griseo maculatis. Tectricium alarum mediorum et longissimorum apicibus late albo maculatis (itaque alis bifasciatis). Rectricibus colore dorsi, externis in vexillo interno stricte albo marginatis. Rostro corneo, mandibula basi infra flavescenti-alba. Pedibus plumbeis, unguibus flavescentibus.



JG Keulemans lith.

Hanhart imp.

XENERPESTES MINLOSI.

Avis junior. Plumis pectoralibus fusco marginatis, nucha fortius albo striata, striis frontalibus fere evanescentibus, alarum tectricibus sordidis albo fasciatis et limbo rectoricum lateralium albo nullo differt.

Long. tot. 100 (circiter), al. 57-56, caud. $47\frac{1}{2}$ - $48\frac{1}{2}$, rostr. culm. $11\frac{1}{2}$, tars. $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Habitat. Circa Bucaramanga, in republ. Colombiana (coll. Minlos).

Typi in Mus. Lübeck et Hans von Berlepsch.

I add a more detailed description of the two specimens which are in the collection—one of them being evidently an adult; the other a young bird, which differs in many points from it.

Adult. The upper parts of the body are of a dark cinereous colour, with a slight shade of olive admixed with it. The top of the head is much darker, rather blackish, and here each feather shows a thin white stripe occupying the shaft from the base till about the end of the feather; these stripes are more conspicuous on the fore part of the front, where the feathers are rather firm and rigid and acutely pointed. On the hind neck, and more so on the sides of the neck, there are likewise indications of white stripes down the feathers, but they are only to be seen when the feathers are disturbed. The lores are white, but obscured by blackish margins to the feathers, which also form a black line dividing the lores from the superciliary stripe. The white superciliary stripe itself, which is very broad and conspicuous, begins at the nostrils, where it has a strong yellowish or fulvous suffusion, and then becoming of a purer white, extends over the eye to the side of the nape, where it ends in an acute tip. The feathers of the region under the eye are whitish, with blackish tips; the ear-coverts blackish, striped down the centre with whitish.

All the underparts are of a uniform soiled white, somewhat suffused with yellowish. On the sides of the breast there are a few indistinct blackish spots, being, no doubt, the remains of a feature which is much more conspicuous in the immature stage of this bird.

The under wing-coverts, the carpal margin, and the inner

margin of the wing-feathers are also a uniform yellowish white. The flanks are greyish olivaceous, variegated with whitish, and on the inner flanks under the wing there is a bundle of silky-white feathers of a fluffy appearance. The under tail-coverts are yellowish white, marked with indistinct dusky spots on each side of the feather.

The wings are a blackish brown, with very indistinct margins of greyish olive to the secondaries and the middle portion of the outer webs of the primaries. The smallest wing-coverts are dark brown, margined with the colour of the back, the medium-sized and the longest coverts more blackish brown, tipped broadly and distinctly with white spots (these forming two conspicuous and well-marked white wing-bands). The least tertiaries also show inconspicuous narrow white margins to their tips behind.

The tail-feathers are of the same cinereous colour as the back, with blackish shafts. The three outer rectrices on each side show sharp and conspicuous white margins to the inner webs from nearly the base to the tip. Upper mandible blackish brown; the under mandible whitish, obscured with brownish on the side of the base and on the tip. Legs blackish plumbeous, claws clear yellowish white.

The *young* bird differs from the old one in having all the feathers of the breast down nearly to the belly and of the jugulum margined with greyish black; these margins are more conspicuous on the sides of the feather than on the tip, but give to these parts of the body a somewhat scaly appearance. The white superciliary stripe is not nearly so broad as in the old bird, and much obscured by blackish margins to the feathers. The feathers on the forehead show somewhat lighter centres, but there are no linear shaft-stripes; these feathers are also not nearly so stiff and pointed as in the adult.

On the neck and upper part of the back the white striations are much more conspicuous, being broader and more generally dispersed. The white wing-bands are not so conspicuous, being narrower and more soiled with rusty yellowish. The conspicuous white margins to the inner webs of the tail-feathers are altogether wanting.

The second addition to the Colombian avifauna is a specimen + of *Oncostoma olivaceum*, Lawr. The genus *Oncostoma* has hitherto been believed to be confined to Central America; the discovery of *O. olivaceum* at Bucaramanga therefore is a fact of considerable interest. The skin sent from Bucaramanga differs a little from a typical specimen of *O. olivaceum* kindly lent to me for comparison by Mr. Sclater. The former is of much larger dimensions and has a somewhat narrower bill; the upper parts of the body are of a darker olivaceous, especially on the top of the head, where the dark basal markings of the feathers are more apparent. Further, the upper breast is more conspicuously striated with dusky, and the yellowish wing-bands (formed by the terminal spots of the larger and middle wing-coverts) are much clearer and broader.; the legs, too, are darker.

Knowing that similar differences in size and colour are to be found in specimens of the allied *O. cinereigulare*, I do not think the specimen from Bucaramanga ought to be separated specifically or subspecifically from true *O. olivaceum*. A larger series is necessary to settle this point definitely.

O. olivaceum from Panama (mus. P. L. Sclater): al. $41\frac{1}{2}$ millim., caud. 30, rostr. $11\frac{1}{2}$, tars. $14\frac{1}{2}$.

O. olivaceum from Bucaramanga: al. 49 millim., caud. $38\frac{1}{2}$, rostr. $12\frac{1}{4}$, tars. 14.

The third addition to the avifauna of Bucaramanga is a young male in transition plumage of *Euphonia nigricollis* (Vieill.), about which no remark is needed.

Muenden, November 1885.

+ XI.—*A List of the Birds obtained by Mr. Henry Whitely in British Guiana.* By OSBERT SALVIN, M.A., F.R.S., &c.

[Continued from 'The Ibis,' 1885, p. 439.]

380. PICUMNUS MINUTUS.

Pipra minuta, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 340?

Picumnus minutus, Cab. in Schomb. Guiana, iii. p. 714.

Camacusa, Merumé Mountains, Roraima (3500–4000 ft.).